

also profit from the observations made while visiting the various courses. There are about thirty golf clubs in the Cleveland District, which includes a territory of approximately 75 square miles. The attendance at our meetings is growing larger at each club we visit. The clubs in the district are anxious to have us visit them. We meet once a month, on Monday, which seems to be the best day for a greenkeeper to absent himself from his regular work. We now have enough invitations scheduled to last the remainder of the season.

The Work and the Needs of the Green Section

The following resumé of what the Green Section is accomplishing and what is needed in order that its work may become of maximum benefit, as presented by Mr. John G. Anderson in *The American Annual Golf Guide and Yearbook for 1924*, will no doubt be of interest to the readers of *THE BULLETIN* especially as coming from so eminent an authority.

"Flourishing and prosperous in the number of clubs and their whole-hearted support the Green Section lived up nobly to all the encomiums of praise which by now through frequency have become commonplace. The usual aid to clubs and sectional committee heads, the monthly reports in their *BULLETIN*, the many questions answered, the hundreds of satisfied, shall we call them customers, all tend to increase the importance of this body.

"But there is a limit to human ingenuity and spread. Three hundred requests to visit courses and give advice! How humanly possible to attend to regular scientific duties and travel fifty thousand miles! It is and was absolutely impossible. If the Green Section is to function as wished for then it must have more funds to procure proper teachers to send round the land and additional money to conduct experiments away from Washington. To secure this the golfers of America have been asked to raise a million dollars as a permanent fund for the Green Section Committee work. An organization duly incorporated has been convened. No cause is more worthy and no results will be more satisfying. There are today a couple thousand clubs which need the benefits of this organization and *THE BULLETIN* at least. * * * "

Golf, Grass, and Hay Fever

By Dr. B. T. Galloway

Golf, grass, and hay fever. What have these in common?

We can at least say that it takes good grass and plenty of it to make good greens and good fairways. Good grass and lots of it also make plenty of hay fever victims.

Then again, golf used to be considered a sort of high-brow disease reserved for the elite. The same erroneous opinion prevailed with regard to hay fever. We do not know how many addicts there are to golf, but on the last count there were something over a million annual hay fever victims in this country. Hay fever is an annual visitant, so that there is an increasing army of weeping, blear-eyed, sneezing folks each year. It is now known that the disease is caused by the inhalation of the pollens of certain plants. The grasses and the ragweeds are the chief offenders, so that in years like the present one, when we had fine grass crops, there has been an unusual number of cases of the spring type of hay fever.

Contrary to the usual belief, roses and goldenrod do not cause hay fever. It is a case of being in bad company, for the roses bloom most when the grasses are spreading the greatest lot of pollen, and the ragweeds

are scattering their pollens far and near when the goldenrod is in bloom. Neither the rose nor the goldenrod produce wind-blown pollen; that is, pollen from the rose and goldenrod is heavy and is not carried by the wind. Grass pollen and ragweed pollen, on the other hand, are extremely light and are often carried long distances. When these pollens are inhaled by the susceptible person, an irritation is set up which spreads to the respiratory organs, often causing acute suffering, especially if asthma develops. The attacks last from five to eight weeks.

There are two general types of hay fever,—the vernal or spring form, and the late summer or autumn form. The first is produced mainly by the grass pollens, including sweet vernal grass, Kentucky bluegrass, orchard grass, timothy, and redbtop. The sweet vernal grass is one of the earliest grasses to bloom and in the eastern part of the United States begins to shed its pollen early in May; Kentucky bluegrass follows and is a great pollinator. Closely following the blooming of bluegrass, orchard grass comes in, then timothy, and lastly redbtop. Of course, there are numbers of other grasses and certain other plants, like the plantain, blooming throughout the season, but it is believed the four grasses named are the chief offenders.

There are two common species of ragweed known to cause hay fever. The botanical name of the genus to which these belong is *Ambrosia*; the two species are *Ambrosia trifida* and *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*. The first is a tall, coarse plant which grows abundantly along roadsides, particularly in low places. The second is the so-called hogweed or Roman wormwood. This grows in waste places along roadways and in vacant lots and grain fields and is one to three feet high, with finely divided leaves. Both ragweeds are enormous pollen producers and come into bloom about the middle of August and continue their blooming and pollen shedding until frost.

The pollens of the grasses, ragweeds and other plants causing hay fever are known to contain active protein-substances, and it is these which produce the harmful effects. Much progress has been made in the last few years in the treatment of this annoying disease. The treatment consists of pre-seasonal and seasonal injections of the pollen extract responsible for the attack. The first step is to determine what particular plant causes the trouble. This is highly important, for without a proper diagnosis, treatments, no matter how carefully made, are likely to be of little help. Recent work has shown the very specific nature of some of the plant pollens. This makes it all the more necessary to determine the actual pollen causing the trouble. The diagnostic work should be done by a competent physician, preferably one who has made a specialty of hay fever and who will take the time and trouble to study the entire history of the case. Diagnostic tests with raw pollens and pollen extracts aid in this work. When it appears certain that the specific pollen has been discovered, treatments with the extract of that pollen begin.

For the spring form of hay fever, treatments should begin early in April and continue through June. For the autumnal form, treatments should begin early in June and continue until frost. It is necessary to give two to three treatments a week for about five weeks before the disease usually appears, and the same number of treatments during the pollinating season. The treatments gradually induce a tolerance on the part of the subject to the pollen causing the trouble, so that when the big mass of pollen comes no harm is done.

Just as one's system may gradually become tolerant to many drugs, so it may be made tolerant to large doses of pollen. Treatments, therefore, do not produce immunization, they merely induce tolerance; hence

they must be repeated each year. Treatments are comparatively simple and, if properly made, are entirely devoid of danger. The injections are made under the skin of the arm and, as a rule, produce temporary local redness, swelling, and itching. When the plant and pollen responsible for the trouble are once definitely known, the person affected can, as a rule, materially aid in preventive measures by avoiding, as far as practicable, contact with such plants. It would be inadvisable, in other words, for a person suffering from hay fever produced by the pollen of orchard grass to walk through pastures or meadows or along roadsides where this grass is blooming. Another point is the fact that most of the grass pollens are shed early in the morning, and it is therefore highly undesirable for patients subject to the attacks of grass pollens to go among the grasses at this time of day.

With increasing knowledge as to the causation of the disease, much benefit will, no doubt, result from systematic reduction of sources of infection. Clean-ups of country roads, village streets, etc., of weeds and flowering plants will do much toward removing the cause of the trouble. Speaking from personal experience, it is a wonderful relief to be rid of the six weeks or two months of agony without having to go away from home or submit to any inconvenience except a very simple series of treatments.

Some United States Golf Association Decisions on the Rules of Golf

QUESTION.—Would working on the golf course as a laborer affect a player's amateur standing? I realize that a greenkeeper is classed as a professional but am not sure whether a man working on the course would come under the same heading.

ANSWER.—Section 7 of the By-Laws of the United States Golf Association covers the definition of an amateur golfer. A man working on a golf course would not violate this rule as long as he was not employed because of his skill and ability as a golfer.

QUESTION.—A player in match play struck the opponent's caddie, who was standing at the flag at the time. We applied Rule 18, under which the opponent loses the hole. The point was then brought up that the United States Golf Association made a ruling at Detroit a number of years ago to the effect that the caddie at the flag automatically becomes the caddie of the player making the shot, so that the player making the shot would lose the hole. Was such a ruling made?

ANSWER.—It is not recalled that the United States Golf Association ever made such a ruling. A caddie at the flag does not automatically become the caddie of the player making the shot. Many similar questions have been laid before the Rules Committee and they have always been decided under Rules 18 and 19.

QUESTION.—In a stroke competition, qualification round, is there any penalty for a practice swing taken in a sand trap or bunker, provided the player is more than a club's length from the ball and his club is not soled in the slightest degree? In a practice swing made under these conditions an attempt was made to penalize the player two strokes.

ANSWER.—There is no penalty for a practice swing taken in a sand trap or bunker more than a club's length from the ball, provided the club is not soled and the player touches nothing. The player in no way improves his lie and in no way tests the consistency of the soil with his club and conforms in every respect to the conditions laid down in Rule 25.